



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISORY PROGRAM

SCHEDULE FOR SSU STUDENTS PLANNING TO ENTER A HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOL IN FALL 2009

All students planning to enter allopathic medical, dental, veterinary medical, osteopathic medical, podiatry, chiropractic, pharmacy, physician assistant, or optometry schools in the fall 2009 term and wishing to be evaluated by the SSU Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC) in order to have a Committee Letter of Evaluation written to support your application, **MUST** follow the timetable and procedures listed below. **It is your responsibility to meet deadlines and make sure that all information you provide is accurate and complete.**

PROCEDURES AND TIME TABLE

1. E-mail Address

You need to have and use an e-mail address. You may have an email address already, but if you do not, get one soon.

2. Pre-Health Listserv

Information about Pre-health Club meetings, health professional school conferences and workshops, various schedules, updates on admission requirements and other pertinent information will be posted by the Dr. HPAC Chair or the Pre-health Club Officers on the **Pre-Health Listserv** and you should keep up-to-date. To **subscribe** (or unsubscribe) to the Pre-Health Listserv, go to <https://webmail.sonoma.edu/mailman/listinfo/pre-health> and follow the instructions.

3. Standard Tests

You need to take the appropriate standard test: MCAT (Medical College Admission Test), DAT (Dental Admission Test), GRE (Graduate Record Examination), OAT (Optometry Admission Test), PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test), etc. Do this early enough, generally in the spring semester of your junior year, so you will then know early how well you did, and you can judge if you need to repeat the test, and to how many and which schools you should apply. If you take the test in the fall semester of your senior year, you generally may not know your scores when you are sending in the application. Visit the SSU HPAC website (www.sonoma.edu/hpac), or the table below, for links to various websites where you can download application

forms and obtain important information about the tests.

The testing schedule given below indicates the dates of the standard tests and the last day to file an application to take the test.

Test	Test Date	Application Date	Web site
MCAT	Check the web site (offered 22 times this year)	Check the web site	www.aamc.org/students/mcat
DAT & GRE	Scheduled at any time at Prometric Test Centers	None [SEE THE NOTE BELOW]	www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp & www.gre.org
OAT	Scheduled at any time at Prometric Test Centers	None [SEE NOTE BELOW]	www.opted.org/info_oat.cfm
PCAT	Will be posted on their web site on FEB. 29, 2008	Will be posted on their web site on FEB. 29, 2008	www.pcatweb.info

The Nearest Prometric Testing Center for SSU students is:

PROMETRIC TEST CENTER
 1360 NORTH DUTTON ST. SUITE 100
 SANTA ROSA, CA 95401
 Phone: (707)579-5163 [Site Code: 0515]

A list of other Prometric testing centers can be found at www.Prometric.com.

MCAT: Almost all U.S. medical schools require applicants to submit MCAT scores. Medical college admission committees consider MCAT scores as part of their admission decision process. It is a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess the examinee's problem solving, critical thinking, writing skills, and knowledge of science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine. Scores are reported in Verbal reasoning, Physical Sciences, Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences. Many schools do not accept MCAT scores that are more than three years old. MCAT will be delivered exclusively at Prometric computer-based testing sites. For more details on testing dates, times, locations, registration process, and questions about the computerized MCAT and the new, shorter format, visit www.aamc.org/students/mcat/

DAT: The American Dental Association (ADA) administers DAT by computer through Prometric Testing centers throughout the year. Students can register for the test on-line at www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/registering.asp. The testing program is designed to measure general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information, and perceptual ability. Ninety (90) days must elapse before an applicant becomes eligible for retesting. Walk-in registration for testing is not available.

GRE: The GRE General Test measures critical thinking, analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study. This type of test will help the admissions committees assess higher level critical thinking and analytical writing skills of applicants. The computer based GRE is offered year round at computer-based test centers. In order to register, call the test center directly (in Santa Rosa, 579-5163) or the Prometric® Candidate Services Call Center at **1-800-GRE-CALL** (1-800-473-2255). For more information, please visit the following web site: www.gre.org.

OAT: OAT is now available only in Computer Based Test (CBT) format. You can take the test as many times as you prefer, however, there is a 90-days waiting period between tests. Application information, preparation materials and test sites (Prometric Testing Centers) are available at www.opted.org/onfo_oat.cfm.

PCAT: The PCAT, an exam developed by PsychCorp, a brand of Harcourt Assessment, Inc. is a specialized test that helps identify qualified applicants to pharmacy colleges. It measures general academic ability and scientific knowledge necessary for the commencement of pharmaceutical education. The PCAT is constructed specifically for colleges of pharmacy. You may apply online for taking the test by visiting www.pcatweb.info. Please refer to the table above for test dates and application deadlines. According to the PCAT administration office, the test and registration dates for this year will be posted on their web site by February 29, 2008.

4. HPAC File

Those who wish to be evaluated by the HPAC in order to have a Committee Letter of Evaluation written to support your professional school application, **MUST** get their HPAC file in order at least ONE WEEK before your interview with members of the committee. Please contact Ms. Kathleen Hardy in the HPAC Office (Darwin Hall 200) ASAP to receive further assistance with setting up a file. Your HPAC file must contain the following items:

- a **current SSU Personal Information Form**
- **completed HPAC GPA Calculation Forms, and**
- **at least three Letters of "Evaluation Statements."**

(These forms are available in pdf from the HPAC website: www.sonoma.edu/hpac)

[Re-applicants: If you are a re-applicant this year, your HPAC file must include an updated SSU Personal Information Form, at least two recent Letters of Evaluation, and you may need to have another mock interview with the HPAC interview. Please check with Dr. Pillai for more on this.]

Notes on HPAC File Components:

A) Personal Information Form: The SSU personal Information you will see on the HPAC web site is prepared to look as general as possible. For example, some of the classes listed on that form may not perfectly match with the ones you have taken here

or elsewhere. Do your best when filling out the form and please contact Dr. Pillai for any assistance.

B) GPA Calculation Forms: All students wishing to be interviewed by the HPAC must complete the HPAC GPA calculation forms (part of your HPAC file). Get copies of transcripts or grade reports from all the colleges or universities you have attended in order to fill out the HPAC GPA calculation forms [unofficial copies are ok]. Attach copies of the transcripts or grade reports with your form. Be sure to include all schools, even if you only took one summer school course at that institution. Using the HPAC GPA calculation forms, list your courses for each year and calculate your GPA according to the directions given in the form. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Pillai.

GPA and Mock Interview: Since competition for allopathic medical school is so intense, the applicant pool is being screened initially essentially on GPA and MCAT scores. It has been the experience of the SSU HPAC over the last several years that no one at SSU with a GPA of 3.0 or below has ever been interviewed at a US allopathic medical school. If your calculations show you have an overall, science, **or** last two years of GPA below 3.0, you may not be interviewed by the HPAC. However, if you already have high MCAT scores (significantly higher than the national average) and significant amount of extracurricular activities and experience in the medical field, you may request the committee in writing to reconsider interviewing you. Please check with Dr. Pillai for more on this before you sign up for a mock interview. **Please note** that if you do not meet the GPA and test requirements for an HPAC interview, it is still possible for you to apply to health professions schools by having individual evaluators send their letters directly to the schools.

C) Evaluation Statements and Letters: At least three Evaluation Statements and letters are required. Plan to obtain them from your instructors, job supervisors, health professionals, etc. These letters should come from people who can comment on your suitability for the kind of health profession you want to enter. Make an appointment to meet with your letter writer, if you need to. It is helpful to give the letter writer specific information about yourself, e.g. when you were in their class or worked or held a volunteer position under their supervision and your professional ambition. Ask for the completed "Evaluation Statement" forms to be sent to Dr. Murali Pillai, Chair, Health Professions Advisory Committee, Department of Biology, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park, CA 94928, at least a week in advance of your HPAC mock interview. You may have more letters in your file and we recommend a minimum of three.

5. Mock Interview with the HPAC

Between February 18 – 28, 2008, you will need to sign up with Kathleen Hardy in the Biology/ HPAC Office (Darwin Hall Room 200), or by calling her at 664-2535, for a 45-50 minute mock interview that will be scheduled in March, April or May. At the time you sign up, be sure to ask her for a copy of the list of possible interview questions. The interview schedule for spring 2008 is given below. **Do not delay in scheduling your interview.**

- March 17-21:** Pre-vet, pre-optometry, pre-podiatry and pre-chiropractic interviews
- March 24-28:** Spring Break: No interviews
- March 31- April 04:** Pre-pharmacy and pre-physician Assistant interviews
- April 07- April 18:** Pre-dental interviews
- April 21 –May 02:** Pre-med interviews (allopathic, osteopathic and naturopathic)

No interviews will be conducted after May 2nd, 2008.

After all the candidates have been interviewed, the HPAC will meet and draft individual memos for all of you. This memo will have important guidelines you have to follow in order for the HPAC to prepare and send out committee evaluation letters in a timely fashion. You must pick up your memo from the HPAC office before you leave campus for the summer break.

6. Applications to Health Professions Schools

Prepare your application and send it to the appropriate application service on time. The earlier you get your application in, the earlier you may get reviewed by the health professions school. Allopathic medical, osteopathic medical, dental, veterinary, pharmacy, and podiatry health professions schools use a centralized application service for the initial application. Visit the appropriate websites for more information about this, especially deadlines for submission of applications. Allopathic medical school application service (AMCAS) generally starts accepting applications in June. Following are website addresses of the major centralized application services:

Allopathic medicine: <http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm>

Osteopathic medicine: <https://aacomas.aacom.org/>

Podiatric medicine: www.e-aacpmas.org

Pharmacy: <http://www.pharmCAS.org>

Dentistry: <https://aadsas.adea.org/aadsas2006>

Veterinary medicine: <http://aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm>

As soon as you have sent in your application, put a copy of it (including recent GPA calculations, list of schools to which you are applying, and any other material you sent with the application) into your HPAC file. **Immediately inform (through email) your HPAC Committee letter writer, cc to Kathleen Hardy and Dr. Pillai, that your application has been sent so the draft of the letter can be started.** Generally, you will receive requests for secondary applications 3-4 weeks after you submit your application and the committee letter should be ready in this amount of time.

7. Request for Secondary Applications from the Health Professions Schools.

When you get requests for secondary applications, notify Kathleen Hardy (cc to Dr. Pillai) via email with addresses of schools where the committee letter should be sent.